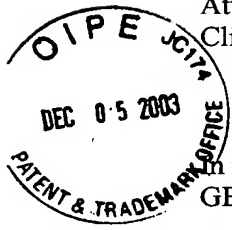


IMAGE

Attorney's Docket 081468-0290724  
Client Reference: P-0241.010-US



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT APPLICATION of:  
GERRIT JAN HEERENS ET AL.

Confirmation Number: 2502

Application No.: 10/084,656

Group Art Unit: 1756

Filed: February 28, 2002

Examiner: SALEHA R. MOHAMEDULLA

For: MASK HANDLING METHOD, AND MASK AND DEVICE OR APPARATUS  
COMPRISING A GRIPPER THEREFOR, DEVICE MANUFACTURING METHOD AND DEVICE  
MANUFACTURED THEREBY

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendments  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT/RESPONSE TRANSMITTAL

Transmitted herewith is an amendment/response for this application.

FEEES

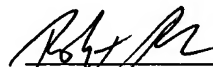
The fee for claims and extension of time (37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17) has been calculated as shown below:

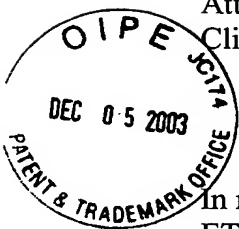
	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	HIGHEST NO. PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	PRESENT EXTRA	RATE	ADDIT. FEE
TOTAL	25	- 25	= 0	x \$ 18.00	= \$ 0.00
INDEP.	7	- 7	= 0	x \$ 86.00	= \$ 0.00
FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEP. CLAIM			+	\$ 290.00	= \$ 0.00
TOTAL ADDITIONAL CLAIM FEE					\$ 0.00
GRAND TOTAL					\$ 0.00

FEE PAYMENT

Authorization is hereby made to charge the amount of \$0.00 to Deposit Account No. 033975. Charge any additional fees required by this paper or credit any overpayment in the manner authorized above. A duplicate of this paper is attached.

Date: December 5, 2003  
PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP  
P.O. Box 10500  
McLean, VA 22102  
(703) 905-2159

  
ROBERT C. PEREZ  
Reg. No. 39328



Attorney Docket: 081468-0290724

Client Reference: P-0241.010-US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT APPLICATION of: HEERENS  
ET AL.

Confirmation Number: 2502

Application No.: 10/084,656

Group Art Unit: 1756

Filed: February 28, 2002

Examiner: SALEHA R. MOHAMEDULLA

Title: MASK HANDLING METHOD, AND MASK AND DEVICE OR APPARATUS  
COMPRISING A GRIPPER THEREFOR, DEVICE MANUFACTURING METHOD AND  
DEVICE MANUFACTURED THEREBY

REPLY TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendments  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

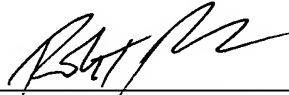
In reply to the Restriction Requirement dated November 5, 2003, applicants respectfully traverse the restriction. The restriction fails to set forth a proper basis for restriction. For example, paragraph 2 of the action states that "the product can be used in a materially different process, such as an exposure process." The action fails to link either of group I or group II to either the alleged product or process of use. Further, the action fails to explain how "an exposure process" is materially different from the method recited in claim 1, a mask handling method, such mask handling methods are used, for example, in exposure processes. As another example, the method of group IV, is described as "a process for making a device that can be used in computers." This characterization appears disingenuous in view of the previous description of "an exposure process," as the manufacture of devices for use in computers of course involves exposure processes and the method recited in claim 20 is an exposure process (see lines 2 and 3 of claim 20). Without addressing each combination, applicants point out that mere characterization of the groups, without any reliance or reference to the language of the claims and without any explanation of the reasoning applied, is insufficient basis for a restriction requirement or any other official action.

HEERENS ET AL. -- 10/084,656  
Client/Matter: 081468-0290724

In compliance with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.143, applicants hereby elect the invention of Group I, claims 1-5 and 22-25.

Prompt examination and favorable consideration on the merits are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,  
PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP



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Date: December 5, 2003  
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